

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 BIB-01 HA-05 CU-04 COME-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
H-01 INR-10 L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /088 W
-----127118 061839Z /43

O R 061742Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5677
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW 2490
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USIA WASHDC
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1882

FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/SOV FROM USDEL CSCE
GENEVA FOR USDEL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE OCON
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SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE--DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, MARCH 6, MORNING-AFTERNOON

SUMMARY: MALTESE BLOCKED CONSENSUS ON ADOPTION OF CONCLUDING
DOCUMENT IN AFTERNOON PLENARY. CONFERENCE WILL RESUME
AT 2100 THIS EVENING. BRITISH HOPE TO HAVE RESULTS FROM BILATERAL
APPROACH TO MINTOFF BY THAT TIME. ALLIES ARE FIRM AGAINST
OFFERING MALTESE ANYTHING MORE THAN THEY HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED.

END SUMMARY.

1. MALTESE REP TOLD PLENARY THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS HAVE NOT CHANGED: HE CAN NOT ACCEPT PRESENT FORMULATION OF MEDITERRANEAN PORTION OF CONCLUDING DOCUMENT AND MUST THEREFORE WITHHOLD CONSENSUS TO ENTIRE TEXT. MALTESE REP SAID QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT A MEDITERRANEAN GROUP CAN CONSIDER POLITICAL/SECURITY ISSUES IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE. ACCEPTANCE OF MANDATE AS PRESENTLY WRITTEN WOULD, HE SAID, AMOUNT TO STEP BACK FROM FINAL ACT.

2. UK REP MADE PLEA IN PLENARY TO MALTESE TO ACCEPT DOCUMENT AS MAJOR CONCESSION FROM DELS LIKE HIS OWN THAT QUESTIONED WHETHER BELGRADE MEETING SHOULD HAVE AS ALMOST ITS SOLE CONCRETE RESULT MEETING ON MEDITERRANEAN QUESTIONS. BRITISH AMBASSADOR ADVISED NATO CAUCUS SUBSEQUENTLY THAT UK HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL TRY TO MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO MINTOFF THIS EVENING. BRITISH HOPE TO HAVE RESULTS OF THIS APPROACH BEFORE PLENARY RESUMES AT 2100.

3. ALLIES ARE AGREED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO STAND FIRM AGAINST WHAT ALL REGARD AS THIRD MALTESE EFFORT TO USE CSCE CONSENSUS RULE TO EXTORT CONCESSIONS. MALTESE GAINED MORE THAN OTHERS WISHED TO GIVE THEM AT HELSINKI PREPARATORY TALKS IN 1973 AND AT GENEVA PHASE II IN 1975, BUT ALLIES BELIEVE OFFER THAT HAS BEEN MADE OF A GROUP TO STUDY AREAS OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION CONFIDENTIAL

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IS ALL THAT CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE AT BELGRADE. ALLIES ARE ALSO AGREED NOT TO WHET MALTESE APPETITE BY SUGGESTING TO THEM AT THIS TIME COSMETIC LANGUAGE CHANGES THAT MIGHT SAVE FACE BUT NOT MODIFY EXPERT GROUP'S MANDATE. CAUCUS ALSO CONSIDERED THAT, FOR PRESENT AT LEAST, EXCEPT FOR UK WHICH HAS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IN VALLETTA, THEY SHOULD NOT DIGNIFY MINTOFF'S POSITION BY MAKING DIRECT DEMARCHES.

4. EXCEPT FOR PATIENCE AND FIRMNESS, NO ONE HAS MUCH OF AN IDEA WHAT CAN BE DONE TO BRING MALTESE AROUND. ALLIES CONSIDERED UNSATISFACTORY AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S SUGGESTION TO GIVE FINAL SPEECHES IN CLOSED PLENARY AND ESCHEW FORMAL ADOPTION OF CONCLUDING DOCUMENT IF MALTESE PERSIST. MOST AMBASSADORS APPEAR TO FEEL THAT AFTER HAVING HAD TIME IN SPOTLIGHT, MALTESE WILL GIVE IN AND ACCEPT THEIR HALF A LOAF SOON ENOUGH FOR CONFERENCE TO END WITH TWO DAYS OF PLENARY SPEECHES THIS WEEK.

5. BEFORE MALTESE SPOKE OUT IN PLENARY THIS AFTERNOON, YUGOSLAVS AND SWISS INDICATED THEY WERE PREPARED TO DROP THEIR RESERVATIONS TO DOCUMENT EVEN THOUGH IT DID NOT CONTAIN, RESPECTIVELY, MILITARY OR INFORMATION EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS. BOTH SAID THEY

WOULD WORK FOR INCLUSION OF SUCH TOPICS AT MADRID MEETING.

6. FRG REP ADVISED NATO CAUCUS THAT BONN HAS RECOMMENDED EFFORT
BE MADE TO IMPROVE DRAFT DOCUMENT BY REVERSING ORDER OF SEVERAL
PARAGRAPHS AND BY A FEW WORD CHANGES. CAUCUS STRONGLY
DISCOURAGED ANY ATTEMPT TO AMEND DOCUMENT AT THIS LATE DATE,
AND FRG REP AGREED TO REPORT THIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE. WE
DO NOT EXPECT GERMANS TO PURSUE MATTER.
GOLDBERG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-1186
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 124
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3111765
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGRADE CSCE--DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, MARCH 6, MORNING-AFTERNOON SUMMARY: MALTESE BLOCKED CONSENSUS ON ADOPTION OF CONCLUDING DOCUMENT IN AFTERNOON PLENA RY. CONFERENCE WILL RES
TAGS: OCON, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed397bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014